Registration Authority for Cable Television Network

804. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to make officers authorised by the State Government as Registration Authority for Cable Television Network as per Government of Andhra Pradesh Notification *vide* G.O. Ms. No. 57 Home (Genl.-A) dated 6th February, 1996 authorising Commissioner of Police in Hyderabad city and Collectors in the Districts as Authorised Officers who have Quasi-Judicial powers, to exercise the powers under various provisions of the Notified Act;

(b) if so, whether Government would take early favourable decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Section 2(a) of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 provides for notification of "authorized Officer" which include DM/SDM/Commissioner of Police in their local limits of jurisdiction. Authorized officer can exercise powers under Section 11 and Section 19 of the Cable Act. Section 2(h) of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 provides for notification of an authority to perform the function of the Registering authority under the Act. Under Section 2(h) the Head Post Master of a Head Post Office has been declared as the Registering Authority for his territorial jurisdiction. However, the issue of notifying District Magistrates or Sub-Divisional Magistrates or Police Commissioners as registering authority for Cable Operators, in place of the Head Post Master was raised by some States during the 25th SIMCON (State Information Ministers' Conference) meeting held on 15-16th April, 2005. This issue is being considered alongwith other recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on broadcasting and distribution of TV channels.

Uplinking Policy for TV Channels

805. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet has decided to set up a